

hopper 24 and shutter 70 are configured so that the shutter 70 is in a closed position covering a passage 82 of the hopper 24 when the hopper is removed from the grinder assembly 22 and the shutter is in a normally open position allowing beans to pass therethrough when it is positioned on the grinding assembly.

[0067] Operation of the grinder is facilitated by a slide gate mechanism of generally known construction and operation which opens and closes of the normally open passage 82 and aperture 80 in the shutter 70. A device 132 is carried on the hopper 24 to provide information and position sensing in combination with the reader 134 provided on the grinder assembly 22. If the user has properly aligned the hopper 24 with the opening top assembly 30, the device 132 will be detected by the reader 134 indicating that the grinder can operate.

[0068] The component is also important in that it may carry information about the grind time and, perhaps, grind setting in an adjustable grinder. The reader and component provide information to the controller 114. As indicated above, if the grinder assembly is adjustable, the component 132 can provide information about the grind setting of the grind mechanism 112 to properly space grinding structures or burrs retained in the grinding mechanism 112. An adjustable grinder is disclosed in corresponding PCT Application No. PCT/US04/11741, filed April 16, 2004 (Attorney Docket No. 27726-95731) that claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/463,307, filed April 16, 2003 (Attorney Docket No. 27726-91556), the entirety of both this provisional and PCT application are incorporated herein by reference.

[0069] Additionally, the component 132 can be programmed to provide information about the beans retained in the hopper to provide information for example, such as recipe information, for the particular type of bean retained in the hopper. For example, if a French roast bean is retained in the hopper, the chip can be encoded with information about this particular type of bean. The information may be in the form of the name of the bean and, perhaps, additionally the grind time associated with the various batch sizes or volumes for brewing. The information may be displayed on a display 190 provided on the machine which information is provided from the controller 114 coupled to the reader 134 and component 132. The placement of information on the component 132 allows the information associated with the component and the corresponding bean retained in the

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